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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CU-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /111 W
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R 121535Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3913
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: SEASONAL INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES
IN NOVEMBER

REF: (A) BONN 20048; (B) BONN 18732; (C) BONN 09928;
(D) BONN 20337

SUMMARY: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SEASONALLY NON-ADJUSTED
UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR NOVEMBER WHICH AGAIN EXCEEDED
ONE MILLION DREW STANDARD COMMENTS BY THE SPD/FDP
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GOVERNMENT COALITION AND THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION.
SPD/FDP REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED THE PURELY SEASONAL
CHARACTER OF THE INCREASE, CDU/CSU REPRESENTATIVES
WERE MORE GLOOMY. THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
WILL RECEIVE AN INCREASED BUDGET FOR 1978 AND DEVOTE
MORE RESOURCES TO MANPOWER PROGRAMS. A DGB YOUTH CON-
FERENCE IN EARLY DECEMBER DEVOTED A MAJOR PART OF ITS

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EFFORTS TO DISCUSSING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE GENERAL LABOR MARKET SITUATION URGING ACTION TO RESTORE FULL EMPLOYMENT (REF D). END SUMMARY.

1. AN UPDATED REVIEW OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOLLOWS (ALL TOTALS IN THOUSANDS, ALL RATES IN PERCENTAGES):

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPARISONS

	NOVEMBER 77		OCTOBER 77		NOVEMBER 76	
	TOTAL	RATE	TOTAL	RATE	TOTAL	RATE
SEAS. ADJ.	1.041		1.038		1.016	
NON-SEAS. ADJ.	1.004.3	4.4	954.4	4.3	984.7	4.3
MEN	481.6	3.4	442.8	3.1	481.2	4.3
WOMEN	522.7	6.1	511.6	6.0	503.5	5.9
REG. JOB OPENINGS	199.1		220.2		202.1	
PART TIME WORKERS	234.2		197.9		167.7	
FOREIGN WORKERS	97.2	4.9	88.0	4.5	90.1	4.3
YOUTH (UNDER 20)	95.7	4.5	93.6	4.4	100.3	4.5

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2. THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE, JOSEF STINGL, EMPHASIZED THAT THE SLIGHTLY HIGHER NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED WAS DUE TO AN EARLIER WINTER AND MORE ADVERSE SEASONAL INFLUENCES THAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES CHANGED MARGINALLY FROM OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 1977, BUT WERE 25,000 HIGHER THAN IN NOVEMBER 1976.

3. THE MONTHLY AVERAGE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN THE PERIOD JANUARY THROUGH NOVEMBER WAS 1,028,000 OR 4.5 PERCENT, WHICH COMPARES WITH 1,062,500 OR 4.7 PERCENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1976. FOR 1978, THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE EXPECTS AN AVERAGE MONTHLY FIGURE OF 950,000 TO 1,000,000 UNEMPLOYED.

4. AS IN PREVIOUS MONTHS, THE LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATES WERE REGISTERED IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG (2.8 PERCENT), HESSE (3.7 PERCENT), AND IN SOUTH BAVARIA (3.9 PERCENT). THE HIGHEST RATE AGAIN WAS IN LOWER SAXONY-BREMEN (5.5 PERCENT), FOLLOWED BY RHINELAND-PALATINATE-SAARLAND (5.1 PERCENT), AND NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA (4.9 PERCENT).

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5. SPOKESMEN FOR THE SPD/FDP GOVERNMENT COALITION

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STRESSED THE SEASONAL CHARACTER OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT IN-
CREASE, BUT AN SPD BUNDESTAG DEPUTY, EUGEN GLOMBIG,
THE PARTY EXPERT ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS, URGED INTENSIFIED
GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO CURB UNEMPLOYMENT. CDU SECRETARY
GENERAL GEISSLER SAID THAT THE NEW UNEMPLOYMENT
FIGURES "GIVE RISE TO OUR WORST FEARS."

6. THE FRG APPROVED THE FY 1978 BUDGET FOR THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE WHICH ALLOWS FOR EXPENDITURES OF
DM 18.7 BILLION (REF B). INCLUDED ARE EXPENDITURES OF
DM 3,153 MILLION FOR SPECIFIC MANPOWER PROGRAMS; AN
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AMOUNT ALMOST 20 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THAT APPROPRIATED FOR SIMILAR PROGRAMS IN THE 1977 BUDGET.

7. BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT HAVE RECENTLY APPROVED AN AMENDMENT TO THE 1969 MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT ACT (ARBEITSFOERDERUNGSGESETZ) PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AND TO REDUCE THE ABUSE OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS WHICH WERE ANNOUNCED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S MANPOWER PROGRAM IN JUNE (REF C). THE AMENDMENT WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 1978.

8. THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PUBLISHED DATA ON APPRENTICESHIP AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTHS WHICH SHOWED A TOTAL OF 345,300 OFFERS REGISTERED IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1976 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1977. THAT WAS 42,300 OR 14 PERCENT MORE THAN IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1975 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1976. THE NUMBER OF YOUTH APPLICANTS REGISTERED BY THE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICES ALSO INCREASED BY 32,900 OR 8.1 PERCENT TO 436,900 IN THE SAME PERIOD. BY SEPTEMBER 30, 1977, 26,900 UNFILLED VACANCIES COMPARED WITH 27,000 APPLICANTS FOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES. THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DATA IS NOT CONCLUSIVE SINCE FIRMS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REPORT TRAINING OFFERS TO THE EMPLOYMENT OFFICES AND APPLICANTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO USE THESE SERVICES.

9. THE DGB YOUTH CONFERENCE HELD IN FRANKFURT FROM DECEMBER 1-3, CONCENTRATED ON YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT, WARNED AGAINST UNDERESTIMATING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND DEMANDED MEASURES TO RESTORE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND TO CREATE MORE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (REF D).
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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